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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Lord of history, we thank You for inspiring memories of heroism in the past that give us courage for living our faith boldly in the present. Today, we join in the celebration of Hanukkah, the Feast of Dedication. We join with our Jewish Senators, the Jewish people throughout our land, and the State of Israel. We remember 165 B.C. and the victory of the Maccabees over tyrant Antiochus Epiphanes and his troops who had occupied Jerusalem, desecrated the temple, and sought to destroy forever the Hebrew religion. We celebrate the Maccabean victory that enabled the Jews to rededicate the temple and once again to worship You freely. It is with gratitude we remember that there was one remaining flask of pure olive oil left in the temple that miraculously kept the eternal light on the altar burning for 8 days and 8 nights until the supply could be replenished.

We claim the meaning of the word Hanukkah, dedication, as we rededicate ourselves to our duty to uphold religious freedom for all people today. We also reaffirm our commitment to battle against the forces of evil in our society. Lord, we seek to be temples of Your holy spirit. Help us to shine in the spiritual darkness of our time. Keep us aflame with Your spirit of truth. May the verse from Zechariah 4:6, so often repeated during the 8 days of Hanukkah, be our source of strength today: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord." Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator DOLE, is recognized.

Mr. DOLE. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I have been asked by a number of my colleagues if I could give some idea when we might be leaving here for the holidays, and I cannot. But I will lay out some of the items we would like to take up before Christmas or New Year's Eve, whichever.

They are the nominations on the Executive Calendar and other calendar items; the Whitewater subpoena controversy, which may or may not be on the Senate floor. If so, we would like to do that on Wednesday. If there is a budget negotiated agreement, we would like to complete that, of course. There are three appropriations bills remaining; DOD authorization conference report, which we hope to have a vote on tomorrow. There will be a cloture vote on the Labor-HHS bill after consultation with the Democratic leader probably tomorrow.

There are other available conference reports. The ICC sunset, I think that is a conference report, and then welfare reform conference report, which should come to the Senate Wednesday or Thursday.

I will also say, and I think I have indicated this publicly, that there will be no votes today. We hope to receive the D.C. appropriations bill from the House late afternoon or early evening. I think we are trying to work out some agreement, because of the urgency of the matter, that we can deem that to have passed when it reaches the Senate. As soon as we have the language on the bill, we will give that to all the interested parties. What they have done is take out, as I understand, all the education provisions and, on that basis, I think the House is prepared to act.

If anything develops between now—well, any time anything develops—if there is any development and the President should call and say he would like to discuss the budget, I will certainly convey that to my colleagues.

So there will be a period of morning business until 11:30, with no votes today. I hope to be able to have the D.C. appropriations conference report deemed agreed to when it arrives. There will be a cloture vote, as I have said, tomorrow.

Also, last evening, there was an effort by Senator DORGAN by unanimous consent to pass a Senate continuing resolution. Normally appropriations originate in the House. I suggested that we might be able to accommodate them to do that until the 22d of December if they let us take the Labor-HHS bill, which has been tied up on the calendar since September 15 because of objections on the other side to one little provision in that whole bill.

Today, if they are prepared to do that, I think we can work that out. The Speaker told me he would be very anxious to receive the Labor-HHS bill with the CR attached. So we will be working with the Democrats. If that can happen, that will at least keep everything open until the 22d. It is up to my colleagues on the other side. We are prepared to move on that at any time during the day.

I know that my distinguished colleague, Senator LOTT from Mississippi, will discuss in some detail some of the relief that could happen very quickly. I am very pleased to yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, before the Senator does that, will the distinguished majority leader yield for a comment from me?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAIG). The Senator from Vermont.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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